

Message Text

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20

ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

DOT-00 HEW-06 HUD-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-02 OIC-02 PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01 RSC-01 SAJ-01

OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 USIA-15 DEAE-00 IO-10 /124 W

----- 022453

R 110935Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6657

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION TO NATO

UNCLAS TOKYO 16167

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TBIO

SUBJECT: HEALTH EFFECTS OF PVC PACKAGING

REF: A) STATE 263361, B) STATE 263360

1. IN RESPONSE TO INFORMATION TRANSMITTED BY REF B, WHICH WAS PROVIDED BOTH TO GOJ MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (MHW) AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA), MHW HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE RESUME OF EXPERIMENTAL WORK CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HYGIENIC SCIENCES ON MIGRATION OF VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER FROM PVC CONTAINERS. ACCORDING TO MHW, THIS DOCUMENT WAS DISCUSSED AT RECENT MHW-FDA CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON, AND COPIES LEFT WITH FDA. EMBASSY IS ALSO FURNISHING FULL TEXT TO DEPT.

2. GENERAL CONCLUSION OF JAPANESE STUDY DIFFERS CONSIDERABLY FROM REPORTED US RESULTS (PARA A, REF B) IN THAT MAXIMUM VCM CONTENT DETECTED BY JAPANESE IN 50 PERCENT AND 20 PERCENT ALCOHOL

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SOLUTIONS AFTER 4 WEEKS AT 50 DEGREES C WERE 0.82 PPM AND 0.48 PPM,

RESPECTIVELY, WITH AN AVERAGE OF ONLY 0.1 PPM. JAPANESE DOCUMENT ALSO PROVIDES INFORMATION ON EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE, COMPOSITION OF PVC STARTING MATERIAL FOR CONTAINER MANUFACTURE, ANALYTICAL METHOD FOR VCM (GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY), AND STATISTICS ON PVC UTILIZATION IN FOOD PACKAGING.

3. MHW AND EA BELIEVE THAT PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT IS ONLY JAPANESE WORK DIRECTLY RELATED TO PROBLEM OF VC MIGRATION FROM PVC CONTAINERS, ALTHOUGH OTHER WORK ON VC HAZARDS PER SE MAY HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF LABOR'S INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE DIVISION, EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING UP ON THIS LEAD AND WILL REPORT RESULTS WHEN AVAILABLE.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005